

Message Text

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14
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-07 /076 W
----- 070116

R 051725Z OCT 76
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
SECSTATE WASHDC 719
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS QUEBEC 247

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EPAP, CA
SUBJECT: ELECTION PREPARATIONS IN QUEBEC

1. FURTHER INDICATIONS THAT BOURASSA IS CLEARING DECKS FOR AN EARLY ELECTION APPEARED IN PRESS TODAY. THE MOST POINTED WAS THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A PROVINCIAL SUBSIDY OF 22 MILLION DOLLARS TO QUEBEC DAIRY FARMERS. EARLIER IN YEAR FARMERS LOST 40 MILLION DOLLARS FEDERAL MILK SUBSIDY. WHILE PRIMARY FOCUS OF THEIR IRE WAS OTTAWA, GOQ WAS ALSO BLAMED FOR NOT GIVING SUFFICIENT SUPPORT TO FARMERS IN THEIR DISPUTE WITH FEDERAL AUTHORITIES. RESULTING RURAL DISSATISFACTION WAS REPORTEDLY THREATENING LIBERAL ELECTORAL FORTUNES IN RURAL RIDINGS WHERE PQ AS WELL AS CANDIDATES FROM SMALL SPLINTER PARTIES ARE REPORTEDLY GAINING SUPPORT. MILK SUBSIDY IS INTENDED BOLSTER LIBERAL CANDIDATES IN WHAT MANY PREDICT WILL BE CLOSELY FOUGHT ELECTION.

2. SECOND INDICATION THAT BOURASSA HAS DECIDED HOLD FALL ELECTION IS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE APPOINTMENT OF MINISTER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, FRANCOIS CLOUTIER, AS QUEBEC DELEGATE GENERAL IN PARIS. BOURASSA HAS DELAYIED ANNOUNCEMENT THROUGHOUT SUMMER RATHER THAN RISK BY-ELECTION AND/OR
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CABINET RESHUFFLE ON EVE OF POSSIBLE GENERAL ELECTION. FACT

THAT ANNOUNCEMENT HAS NOW BEEN MADE IS WIDELY INTERPRETED
AS INDICATION PREMIER HAS TAKEN ELECTORAL DECISION.
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Message Attributes

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